

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

L-03 /074 W

-----141129Z 066478 /20

R 140706Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3250

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR KS KN US

SUBJ: CONTINUED QUIET IN ARMISTICE COMMISSION AROUSING PRESS
INTEREST

REF: A(SEOUL 1940 100654Z MAR 77, B. SEOUL 2373 240838Z MAR 77

1. NORTH KOREANS HAVE CONTINUED QUIET AND GENERALLY CORRECT
BEHAVIOR IN JOINT SECURITY AREA CITED REF A. PERIOD SINCE
LAST MEETING OF ARMISTICE COMMISSION (OCTOBER 9) HAS NOW
APPROACHED THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 118 DAYS ESTABLISHED
DECEMBER 1956 TO JUNE 1957. NEW RECORD WILL BE SET AFTER
APRIL 16.

2. ROUTINE JOINT SECURITY AREA ACTIVITIES HAVE CONTINUED, WITH
DAILY MEETINGS OF JOINT DUTY OFFICERS AND WEEKLY LANGUAGE
MEETINGS. AS INDICATED REF B, NORTH KOREANS HAVE USED
JOINT DUTY OFFICER CHANNEL TO CONVEY MESSAGES BETWEEN
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SENIOR MEMBERS.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW REPORT OF THREATS OR GESTURES AIMED
AT UNC PERSONNEL BY NORTH KOREAN PERSONNEL SINCE BEGINNING
OF 1977, AND NK DUTY OFFICERS HAVE ON OCCASION REPEATED
INVITATIONS TO UNC DUTY OFFICER TO VISIT NK SIDE OF THE JSA.
(WHILE NOT A ROUTINE PROCEDURE, SUCH INVITATIONS ARE NOT

UNPRECEDENTED, WHIT SIMILAR OFFERS IN 1976 AND EARLIER YEARS.)

4. NORTH KOREAN VIOLATIONS OF ARMISTICE AGREEMENT HAVE CONTINUED ELSEWHERE IN DMZ AT APPROXIMATELY THE USUAL SEASONAL LEVELS. ILLEGAL CREW SERVED WEAPONS INCLUDING MACHINE GUNS AND ARTILLERY PIECES HAVE BEEN SIGHTED ON SIX OCCASIONS IN PAST MONTH, AND HAVE BEEN CHARGED AS VIOLATIONS BY UNC SENIOR MEMBER VIA JDO CHANNEL. THE UNC HAS ALSO PASSED ROUTINE CHARGES, E.G., IDENTIFICATION VIOLATIONS, AK-47 SIGHTINGS, THROUGH THE JDO.

5. MAC INACTIVITY HAS NOW ATTRACTED ATTENTION OF LOCAL PRESS, SPARKED FURTHER BY SPECULATIVE ARTICLE IN CHOSUN ILBO LAST WEEK THAT SUGGESTED UNC OR USG PLANNING "IMPORTANT POLICY SHIFT." PRESS HAS SOUGHT COMMENTS FROM UNC AND EMBASSY ON MAC INACTIVITY. UNC HAS PROVIDED ONLY FACTUAL INFORMATION ON PAST MAC ACTIVITIES, AND EMBASSY HAD DECLINED ALL COMMENT. HOWEVER, REPORTERS PRIVATELY CONTINUE SPECULATING THAT MAC QUIESCENCE REFLECTS EITHER NEW POLICY ON PART OF NORTH OR POSSIBLE POLICY SHIFT ON UNC/USG SIDE. WE EXPECT MORE PRESS SPECULATION WILL SURFACE IN COMING WEEKS.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770457/aaaabxer.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: MARR, KS, KN, US
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